GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:239
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
INSUFFICIENT LAND FOR AFFORESTATION AND PLANTATION
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no land to meet the requirement for afforestation and plantation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the plan of afforestation and plantation on the one third area of total land in the country by the year 2012; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a)to(c) As per the Wastelands Atlas of India prepared by the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad and Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India in 2005, the total wastelands available in the country was 55.27 million hectares. In addition, tree planting is a viable alternative land use activity on other lands also, including agricultural lands.As per the National Forest Policy, 1988 the national goal is to have one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. The principal aim of the Forest Policy is to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance including atmospheric equilibrium, which are vital for sustenance of all lifeforms, human, animal and plant.